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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 273, 611

this bill. As being a little involved in the LB 611 and what transpired on that this morning and me having to pull that and being a priority bill that was important to me, so I overlooked this one. I...I'm not really ready for debate on this. I have to leave early today because I have to be in court in Omaha in about an hour and 15 minutes, but I'm very much against this bill and...because of the implications that we have with the use of marijuana with high THC, tetrahydrocannabinol, and the things that can happen. Law enforcement has lots of questions and concerns. Just a few issues I will read here. Not all industrial hemp can be visually distinguished from marijuana. If industrial hemp is going to be used for oil by-products, the plant is grown to have a smaller stock and more leafy vegetation, much like marijuana. If grown mainly for the use of the stock of the plant it looks different than marijuana. We have...if that was something in front of a law enforcement officer and those of us who will be judging that are those in enforcement that would be looking for them type of things, I think it would be very difficult. But what concerns me more than anything about the bill in itself, on the second page it ought to...it says right away that the...they're going to have to be licensed. You know, under the bill, farmers would apply for licenses to grow industrial hemp. The application would include a copy of fingerprints and a criminal background check. Anyone with a prior criminal conviction would not receive a license. If this stuff is not dangerous why do they have to have that in there? If it's not going to be a problem for law enforcement, that, in itself, would convince me that there's something wrong here and we need to take a better look at this. I don't want to take anything away from the farmers, nothing whatsoever, but I don't want to create for Nebraska a bigger problem, bigger problems than we already have. How many more people will we lock up for...for things like this in the future because we couldn't tell the difference between one or the other? All I can tell you today is, because I'll be leaving here very shortly, if this bill happens to pass I'm hoping that a few of us will get together and do what we can on Select File to do what we have to, to get it stopped, and I apologize for not being up to snuff and ready on this bill because of my own nose stuck into my own issues first and not into this one. Thank you.